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(b) The Tiruvadanai taluk of the Ramnad district borders on Pudukottai and the Tenkasi taluk of the Tinnevelly district borders on Travancore.

(c) The consumption of foreign liquor was as shown below :—

	(Foreign liquor, number of gallons.)				
	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28.
Shiyali ...	...	84	103	87	130
Tirutturaippundi	95	147	120	159	339
Tiruvadanai ...	100	161	240	255	203
Tenkasi ...	131	294	325	408	431
Attur ...	...	Nil.	...	...	...

Statistics of the consumption of toddy are not available.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire why the number of foreign liquor shops has increased from one at the close of the regime of the late Excise Minister, Sir A. P. Patro, to four this year ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Where did the hon. Member get the information from ? "

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" I knew it was one then because that answer was given by Sir A. P. Patro at that time."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I am not aware of the actual number of shops at the time when Sir Patro laid down his office. If the number has increased, it must have been in 1927, before I took up office—if the hon. Member is sure that it was only one when Sir A. P. Patro laid down his office."

Extension of the system of licensing boards.

* 365 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken to extend the system of licensing boards ;

(b) when he proposes to extend the system to all municipalities ; and

(c) whether he has considered the question of utilizing local boards for that purpose ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Excise licensing boards have been formed in the fifteen major municipalities. The idea of the Excise Advisory Committee in recommending the creation of such boards was that they should form a basis of experiment and that the experience gained by their working should determine further action. The licensing boards were actually constituted so recently as 1927, and the Government are of opinion that it is as yet too soon to consider an extension of the system in the directions suggested.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister for Excise will tell us if he has received reports about these licensing boards from 1927 up to now ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Licensing boards have been working and we must have heard something about them."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" But has he received reports and has he considered whether these reports justify the extension of this system of licensing boards ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" We have received reports but we do not think sufficient time has elapsed for a reconsideration of the matter."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know what the gist of the reports has been, whether the system has been a success or not ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Manufacture of country liquor.

*366 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the various firms which manufacture country liquor by contract with Government for supply to depots in the Presidency ;

(*b*) the basis of materials from which the liquors are made ;

(*c*) where the distilleries are ;

(*d*) the places to which the distilleries supply liquor and what kind of liquor is supplied ;

(*e*) what are the prices charged by the distillers for the several kinds of liquor ;

(*f*) which distillery supplies country liquor to South Kanara ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that only liquor made from molasses or the refuse in a sugar manufactory is supplied for sale as country liquor in South Kanara ;

(*h*) whether it has been found possible to supply liquor from sugarcane or palmyra or coconut jaggery in large quantities from Indian distilleries in the Coimbatore district ;

(*i*) whether there has been a fall in consumption of the country liquor and fall in rentals in South Kanara and whether this is due to inferior quality and unpopularity of the liquor supplied ;

(*j*) whether there has also been an increase in the illicit distillation of liquor in the district during the last five years with figures ; and

(*k*) whether Government have before them proposals to license local distillation from various materials, and what steps Government propose to take regarding the matter ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*g*) A statement [a] is appended.

(*h*) The Government have no information on the point.

(*i*) Figures showing the consumption of country liquor and the rentals realized in the South Kanara district during the five years ending 1927-28 are given below :—

Year.			Consumption in imperial proof gallons.	Rentals.
				RS.
1923-24	...	...	62,804	1,34,815
1924-25	...	...	60,440	1,24,169
1925-26	...	...	52,507	1,03,649
1926-27	...	...	49,995	1,03,947
1927-28	...	...	51,848	99,310

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 679-680 infra.